

## ABSTRACT

An electronic video write protect system and method comprising the use of a rotating video head that contains both a conventional record/play element and a pre-existing video signal detection element. A pre-existing video signal line runs from the pre-existing signal detection element to record circuitry. From the record circuitry, a record signal line runs to the un-conventional rotating video head. A video tape passes across the rotating video head before the video head used for recording video information on the video tape, to receive/transfer information to a video recording device. If a pre-existing video signal is detected on the video tape, the record circuitry is disabled, thus preventing accidental overwrite of pre-existing video information on that portion of the video tape. However, recording is allowed on the portions of the video tape which do not contain pre-existing video content.

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